

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 to 4 (canceled).

Claim 5 (currently amended). A method for ~~inhibiting~~ reducing a viral infection in a mammalian cell, comprising contacting the cell with an effective amount of poly I:C to stimulate induction of interferon regulatory factor in the mammalian cell, thereby increasing expression of interferon β in the cell and inhibiting the viral infection.

Claims 6 to 19 (canceled).

Claim 20 (currently amended). A method for ~~inhibiting~~ reducing viral replication in a cell by stimulating the induction of interferon regulatory factor 3 in the cell, comprising contacting the cell with an effective amount of poly I:C, thereby increasing expression of interferon β in the cell and inhibiting the viral replication in the cell.

Claims 21 to 24 (canceled).

Claim 25 (previously presented). The method of claim 5, wherein the cell is a macrophage.

Claim 26 (previously presented). The method of claim 20, wherein the cell is a macrophage.

Claim 27 (currently amended). The method of claim 5, wherein said ~~inhibiting~~ reducing is *in vivo*.

- Claim 28 (currently amended). The method of claim 5, wherein said ~~inhibiting~~ reducing is *in vitro*.
- Claim 29 (currently amended). The method of claim 20, wherein said ~~inhibiting~~ reducing is *in vivo*.
- Claim 30 (currently amended). The method of claim 20, wherein said ~~inhibiting~~ reducing is *in vitro*.
- Claim 31 (currently amended). A method of ~~inhibiting~~ reducing a viral infection in a human, comprising administering to the human an effective amount of poly I:C to stimulate induction of interferon regulatory factor 3 and increase the expression of interferon β , thereby inhibiting the viral infection.